

use a minuscule portion of the funding for programs under this chapter to determine whether or not the billions of dollars authorized under this bill, plus the hundreds of billions of dollars the prison grants program will encourage the States to spend, whether or not those expenditures actually reduce crime.

Mr. Chairman, I will submit a similar provision to evaluate programs funded under the Police and Prevention Block Grant when we take up H.R. 728. The amendment will set aside one-tenth of 1 percent for research and evaluation of the effectiveness of expenditures under the bill for crime reduction.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment assures that we will try to add not only truth-in-sentencing, but also truth in legislating, as we approach the attack on crime. We need to know whether or not the expenditures are actually having an effect.

Mr. Chairman, we have seen programs evaluated, like drug courts, that cost about one-twentieth of other initiatives and have an 80 percent reduction in crime.

We have seen studies of Head Start, Job Corps and other primary prevention programs that save more money than they cost and reduce crime.

We have even seen recreational programs studied, and significant reduction of crimes are found.

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Mr. Chairman, according to the National Academy of Sciences, in various studies of potential years of life lost, violence prevention gets a small portion of the research. We spend \$441 for heart, lung, and blood research for each potential year of life lost, \$697 for AIDS research, \$794 for each potential year of life lost for cancer, but only \$31 for each potential year of life lost in research for violence.

Mr. Chairman, we should invest one-tenth of 1 percent of the funds under this bill to see whether we have wasted our money or whether the money could have been allocated better. Five years from now after we have spent \$30 billion, we would then be considering spending another \$30 billion or more, it would be nice to know what parts of the \$30 billion actually had the effect of reducing crime and what part of the \$30 billion had no effect at all.

This minuscule investment can give us the answers, and therefore I hope the House will adopt the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM] is recognized for 10 minutes in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

If I might, Mr. Chairman, I wish to oppose this amendment, and I would like to argue in that behalf very briefly simply to state that what I am con-

cerned about at this point in time is the fact that we already know that 30 percent of those who are convicted of all violent crimes in this country are on probation or parole at the time they are convicted. There is no question that prison time is a great solver in deterring crime. If somebody is in prison they cannot commit crimes, for gosh sakes. We do not need to spend one dime of research to determine that. I cannot imagine the value of it, and I cannot, as much as I respect the gentleman from Virginia, and know he is in good conscience offering this, I cannot for the life of me see why we should do it.

With all due respect, I am going to oppose the amendment. It just does not make any sense to me and I do not think there is much more I need to debate about it. I just do not have any reason to support it and I cannot.

So, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally in order that the House may receive a message.

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. CUNNINGHAM] assumed the Chair.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

VIOLENT CRIMINAL INCARCERATION ACT OF 1995

The Committee resumed its sitting.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from Virginia seek recognition?

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Virginia has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the ranking member of the committee, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS].

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, if we are not willing to spend one-tenth of 1 percent to find out where \$10 billion is going in terms of programs, construction, and effectiveness, I do not know how anybody could support this program without having this one safety corrective.

We just passed slightly earlier an amendment that would allow for evaluating and mandating the efficiency of the construction of prisons, and prison construction. Now we are saying to look at the efficacy of this entire program, the construction and the prisons and the programs contained within this bill is unnecessary because we already know, it is the height of arrogance on our part. If we already knew this we would have built prisons a long time

ago. As a matter of fact, the debate is very much in doubt as to how much effectiveness building prisons really is.

So I urge the support of the Scott amendment as being very vital to this bill.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I do not seek recognition. I have no other speakers that I know of except me as a closing speaker.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON].

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Chairman, I support the Scott amendment. I support the Scott amendment basically because it questions the blind drive without further study toward incarceration over prevention. Why should we not spend a small amount of money to determine the effectiveness of incarceration?

The bill assumes a government block grant, H.R. 728, will pass next week, and so therefore if it passes it will have an opportunity to eliminate many of the programs that will help policing and community prevention.

I support community policing and prevention programs and therefore I certainly intend to vote against that bill. But at least we should, fiscal responsibility would say we should set aside a small amount to determine if we are spending all of this money in the right way and to what extent it is being effective.

Therefore, State and local governments that have been very supportive with community policing and having resources to prevent crime will find they will be far more vulnerable if the block grants pass and assuming they will be most vulnerable, the likely community policing and technology that should there will not be available. This simply gives an opportunity to study the effectiveness of incarceration.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I support the Scott amendment. The amendment requires that point 1 percent of all prison funding be used for studying the effectiveness of prisons as a crime control device. In other words Mr. Speaker, the Scott amendment questions the blind drive toward incarceration over prevention as an approach to law enforcement in America.

This bill assumed that the Local Government Block Grants Act, H.R. 728, will pass next week. That act will eliminate community policing and the crime prevention programs that we passed last year. I support community policing and prevention programs, and I therefore intend to vote against this bill.

When we passed the crime bill last year, we were comforted by the prospect of putting another 100,000 police on the streets. Those police were expected to help stem the rising tide of crime and to make our streets safe again. State and local governments have responded enthusiastically to community policing.

More than 8,000 applications have been made for grants to put more police on the streets. Last year's crime bill made sure that